

# Save Our Groundwater

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## NEWS

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**Editors, New Directors: Bill McCann is available for comment by calling 603-674-3649.**

### **SAVE OUR GROUNDWATER BOARD MEMBER BILL McCANN IS APPOINTED TO STATE'S GROUNDWATER STUDY COMMISSION**

BARRINGTON, NH – Bill McCann, a member of Save Our Groundwater's Board of Directors, was recently appointed to the Commission to Study Issues Relative to Groundwater Withdrawals by Governor John Lynch. He was appointed to serve as one of the public members on the commission.

The Commission to Study Issues Relative to Groundwater Withdrawals was established in the 2003 session by Senate Bill 155 to clarify the hierarchy of water uses while considering existing property rights, to provide a balanced approach to water use among the state's many water users from agricultural and industrial to municipal and residential; to review the process by which new water users may "reasonably and efficiently uses the state water resources;" and consider potential regional impacts and local water management issues.

"You've got to listen to all sides with twenty-one people on the Commission," says McCann. "The issue's are not black and white. When it comes to water, it's a very complicated, slow process. We're looking at complex issues like watershed impacts, public trust and local control. Aquifers and watersheds do not necessarily line up with town boundaries; local people don't want to be ignored, yet they are reluctant to allow a neighboring town to have a say in their town's business."

McCann is a lifelong resident of Dover with a distinguished public service career. He presently serves as a commissioner on the city's Conservation Commission in addition to his work with SOG. He was Dover's state representative from 1986-1998, serving on the Joint Legislative Commission on Administrative Rules and the House Resource, Recreation and Development Committee.

Save Our Groundwater (SOG) is a New Hampshire Seacoast-area citizens' action organization dedicated to protecting water in the public trust. SOG formed in 2001 in response to a bottled water company's application to take more than 400,000 gallons/day from the aquifer underlying the local rural communities. Seven years later, SOG is still holding the line. For more information, visit <http://www.saveourgroundwater.org>

The commission's meetings are open to the public. Their next meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2008 at 10 a.m. in Room 100 at the State House in Concord.